

Theresa Rice

From: Roz Lassoff on behalf of Council
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 8:08 AM
To: PCD
Subject: FW: SMP Process

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From: Mark Dawson [mailto:mwdawson_inc@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 7:39 PM
To: Council
Subject: SMP Process

Members of the City Council,

As you seem to find yourselves outside your comfort zones while trying to make informed decisions regarding the Bainbridge SMP update please consider the following points:

In retrospect, we can now see that in the process of reviewing the SMP Draft, first the Planning Commission and now the City Council have been thrown off track by a group of shoreline property owners who, from early on, have very effectively carried out their strategy to turn the discussion into a mission to defend their property rights and values against more rigorous shoreline regulations.

The Citizen Work Groups, together with group facilitators and city staff, did an excellent job of ironing out the diverse points of view of the participants. The groups were able to reach consensus on virtually every issue. After many volunteer hours of study and discussion the work groups presented the gift of an SMP Update draft to the City. Unfortunately, due to the shift in emphasis of the discourse from shoreline ecological functions to shoreline property rights, a politicized debate has turned the gift into a weakened, battered document.

The Shoreline Management Plans of the early 1990's were based on relevant scientific investigations of that time. Twenty years later, results of published, peer-reviewed, scientific environmental studies of shoreline ecological functions continue to form the foundation for implementation of shoreline regulations.

Current studies verify that in both subtle and overt ways residential and commercial shoreline development has diminished the health of Puget Sound. Individuals who feel threatened by regulations have repeatedly denied the validity of established scientific evidence, have claimed there is lack of sufficient evidence to support regulatory action, and have disseminated unpublished, non-peer reviewed "scientific evidence" proffered by hobby-scientists, to substantiate their views.

A core function of the SMP Update is to establish a system for gathering scientific data that measures the effects of how well policies and regulations are working to safeguard the shoreline ecosystem. This new data will provide the basis for our efforts to refine and improve the Bainbridge SMP.

We urge you to think again about the context, meaning, and purpose of our SMP.

Respectfully,

Mark & Rebecca Dawson

Crystal Springs

Shoreline homeowners